

Serial No. 09/911,996

Atty. Docket No. 19361-495600

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A plug-and-socket connector element comprising:

a base body in which at least one plug contact is arranged, the at least one plug contact permitting an insertion of an electric feed line in an axial direction from a rear end of the at least one plug contact, and

a fitting part which is movable with respect to the base body from a first latching position to a second latching position and which permits a lateral access at the rear end of the at least one plug contact to the at least one plug contact in the first latching position and, in the second latching position, laterally covers the at least one plug contact, wherein the at least one plug contact comprises a clamping screw at the rear end of the at least one plug contact, the clamping screw extending in a radial direction with respect to an axial extension of the plug contact and being accessible in the first latching position of the fitting part.

Claim 2 (original). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 1, wherein the fitting part is axially movable with respect to the base body.

Claim 3 (previously presented). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 1, wherein the fitting part comprises at least one extension which extends in an axial direction, the extension cooperating with the at least one plug contact in such a manner that the extension in the first latching position locks the plug contact against falling out and, in the second latching position, rigidly holds the plug contact in the base body.

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Claim 4 (original). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 1, wherein the fitting part is captively connected with the base body.

Claim 5 (original). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 1, wherein the fitting part or the base body is provided with a guide groove, and the base body or the fitting part has a projection which is guided in the guide groove.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (previously presented). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 1, wherein the fitting part can be reversibly reciprocated between the first latching position and the second latching position.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A plug-and-socket connector element comprising:

a base body supporting one or more plug contacts, and allowing feeding of an electric feed line in an axial direction towards the plug contact; and

a fitting part movable with respect to the base body in a reversible manner from a first latching position to a second latching position, wherein, in the first latching position, the fitting part permits a lateral access to each plug contact for electrically connecting the electric feed line to the respective plug contact and, in the second latching position, the fitting part covers the plug contact at least laterally, wherein the each plug contact comprises a clamping screw at the rear end of the plug contact, the clamping screw extending in a radial direction with respect to an axial extension of the plug contact and being accessible in the first latching position of the fitting part.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A plug-and-socket connector element comprising:

a base body in which at least one plug contact is arranged, the at least one plug contact permitting an insertion of an electric feed line into the plug contact in an axial direction from a rear end of the at least one plug contact, and

a fitting part comprising a side wall, the side wall having at least one expandable area to which a latch element is connected, wherein the fitting part is coupled to the base body by means of the latch element so as to be movable with respect to the base body from a first latching position to a second latching position and wherein the fitting part permits a lateral access at the rear end of the at least one plug contact to the at least one plug contact in the first latching position and, in the second latching position, laterally covers the at least one plug contact, and wherein the at least one plug contact comprises a clamping screw at the rear end of the at least one plug contact, the clamping screw extending in a radial direction with respect to an axial extension of the plug contact and being accessible in the first latching position of the fitting part.

Claims 10-18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 9, wherein the latch element is designed integrally with the expandable area or arranged on the expandable area.

Claim 20 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 9, wherein the expandable area possesses resilient properties.

Claim 21 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 9, wherein the expandable area comprises folds.

Claim 22 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 9, wherein an actuation mechanism is provided for the latch element.

Claim 23 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 22, wherein the actuation mechanism comprises an actuation lever with at least one first lever arm and the latch element is connected with the first lever arm.

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Claim 24 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 23, wherein the actuation lever comprises a second lever arm which, at least in part, protrudes off the side wall.

Claim 25 (new). The plug-and-socket connector element according to Claim 22, wherein the actuation mechanism for moving the latch element is designed so as to extend radially outwards with respect to a plug-in direction.